Amritsar and similar airports only after facilities/ amenities commensurate to international airports are established at these airports. However, domestic carriers have been allowed certain concessions/rebates on landing charges in respect of smaller aircrafts.

Development of Bhubaneshwar Airport

1559. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared Bhubaneswar airport as International Airport; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for Bhubaneswar airport for development, expansion and facilities of Aerobridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Biju Patnaik Airport at Bhubaneswar is one of the 35 non-metro airports taken up for development and upgradation to international standards. New Terminal Building with all modern facilities including two aerobridges and expansion of apron is likely to cost Rs. 160.51 crores.

Defaulting airlines companies

†1560. SHRI PRABHAT JHA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private airlines operating in the country owe a large amount to Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) if so, the details of such private airlines which have to pay their dues to AAI;

(c) the details of amounts due on them, the date from which these dues have not been paid and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons of not initiating any action on defaulting airlines by the Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Dues of private airlines (Rs. in crores) to Airports Authority of India (AAI), operating in the country as on 31st October, 2008 are as follows:- Air Deccan-Kingfisher – (286.62) dues from January, 08; Jet Airways/Jetlite (32.78) current dues; Spicejet (15.76) current dues; Interglobe Aviation - (6.00) current dues; Go Air (8.81) dues from August, 08; Paramount Airways – (12.50) dues from July, 08. Kingfisher Airlines and Paramount Airways have indicated liquidity crunch and increase in the cost of fuel as the reasons for delay in settlement of dues.

(d) AAI has raised interest bills on account of delay and also given notices to the defaulting airlines besides personal level meetings at various levels. A time bound plan for liquidation of dues of Kingfisher Airlines has also been worked out and the same is committed by the airline.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi